Chilli cultivation.

40. *Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the average quantity of chillies, for the past ten years that are being imported into Travancore;

(*b*) the average value of the same;

(*c*) whether the Government have investigated the possibilities of chilli cultivation on a commercial scale in the State; and

(*d*) whether the department of Agriculture has taken up the chilli cultivation?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: (*a*) 97,246 Cwts. annually.

(*b*) Bh. Rs. 16,04,463.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Yes.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: May I know whether investigation has revealed that chilli cultivation could be successfully carried on in Travancore?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: Yes, Sir.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: May I know whether this experiment was tried anywhere in Travancore?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: It was tried in Kottaram in South Travancore and also in all the rural centres in the Southern Division.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: May I know whether the results of such investigations have been published for the information of the general public?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: The results will be published shortly.

Manufacture of cement.

41. *Mr. K. M. Kesavan (*Karunagapalli, Kartikapalli and Ambalapuzha* cum *Shertallai*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have finished their enquiries with regard to the facilities of manufacturing cement in this country?

Mr. C. Kumara Das (*Director of Industries*: No.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: May I know, with reference to the answer furnished, what time will be required to finish the enquiry?

Mr. C. Kumara Das: It is expected to be finished shortly; I cannot say exactly what time will be required.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: Will it be possible to approximately say the time within which the enquiry will be finished? Will it take a few months?

Mr. C. Kumara Das: It is expected that within a few months' time, the enquiry will be over, But as I said, we cannot be sure about the time.

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